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FRAGMENTS

PRACTICAL JOKE

Otherwise called *une plaisanterie en action*. The English excel in them. Proof: Having lost her Pekinese spaniel, Mrs. D—— returning home said to her husband, who had put on his slippers and was reading the *Times* :

“Go, dear, go instantly and put an advertisement in to-morrow’s paper; I have just lost my adorable little Pekinese!”

The husband put on his shoes and overcoat and left the house . . . and the next morning might have been read in the most widely known of our English contemporary journals the little announcement which follows:

Lost.—A savage dog with an absurd tail, one ear smaller than the other. Disgustingly fat and short-winded. Answers to the name of Marcus—sometimes. Address D——. Number —, — Street.

Reward: Living, 10 shillings; stuffed, 2 pounds.—*L’Opinion*.

FABLE—SYMBOL

A child having let fall into a pond the bread from his luncheon, hundreds of fish gathered about it. . . . But it was a huge piece of bread. Not one of them dared attack it. What was to be done? There they all were, timid and stupid, trying to draw up plans of conquest.

All at once a little fish made his way through the crowd. . . He threw himself upon the bread, striking it solidly with his tail, his head, his fins, so that small crumbs began to break from the mass, which were greedily swallowed by the nearest fish.

The little fish himself did not stop to eat anything, but worked busily on. The bread, under his blows, rocked here and there, sank engulfed in the water, rose, and sank again, until, thanks to the action of the intelligent little creature, the bread dissolved more and more, and filled the water with thousands of particles upon which the crowd of fish regaled itself. At last, when there remained of the great piece of bread only a small fragment, light and easy to carry away, the little fish made off with it . . . upon which all his comrades rushed after him, crying: “Stop thief! . . .”

MORALITÉ

S’il est vrai que l’ingratitude
Soit l’indépendance du cœur,
Combien d’hommes out l’attitude
Des poissons criant: “au volent!”—*La Nouvelle Revue*.